

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED
CHAPTER TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
CHAPTER 20-8, "INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS AND
CORPORATIONS COMPOSED OF REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS"
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Accountancy (hereinafter "Board") proposes a new chapter to the Georgia State Board of Accountancy Rules, Chapter 20-8, Individuals, Partnerships, Associations and Corporations Composed of Registered Public Accountants (herein after "proposed chapter"). The Board voted to post this notice of adoption at a meeting on February 25th, 2008. The proposed chapter details the requirements for biennial firm registration. This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed chapter and a synopsis of the proposed chapter, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed chapter, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

A public hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. May 11th, 2009 at the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed chapter.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for official record. Oral statements should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 P.M.) on May 5th, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to Randall D. Vaughn, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Accountancy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Telephone (478) 207-2440 or fax (866) 888-9718.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at a meeting scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on June 10th, 2009 at the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Accountancy has the authority to adopt a proposed chapter pursuant to authority

contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-23, 43-3-29, 43-3-29.1, and 43-3-35

At its meeting on February 25th, 2009 the Georgia State Board of Accountancy voted that the formulation and adoption of this chapter does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-23, 43-3-29, 43-3-29.1, and 43-3-35.

Additionally, at the meeting, the Board voted that it was legal and feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-23, 43-3-29, 43-3-29.1, and 43-3-35 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of this chapter will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Accountancy.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 6th day of April, 2009.

Randall D. Vaughn
Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: April 6, 2009

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
RULES**

RULE 20-8-.01, “Firms Required to Register – Biennial Registration.”

PURPOSE: The purpose of this rule is to establish the rules of Firm Registration.

MAIN FEATURES: This is a new rule detailing the rules of Firm Registration.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**

RULE 20-8-.01, “Firms Required to Register – Biennial Registration.”

NOTE: Underlined text is proposed to be added; lined through text is proposed to be deleted.

Rule 20-8-.01 Firms Required to Register - Biennial Registration

(1) A firm that does not have an office in this state but performs any audit or any other engagement to be performed in accordance with the Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS), any examination of prospective financial statements to be performed in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) or any engagement to be performed in accordance with the auditing standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board for a client having its home office in this state shall be required to register biennially with the Board in accordance with this Chapter.

(a) A firm required to be registered with the Board under 43-3-21(b)(1)(C) between biennial reporting periods shall register with the Board on a form obtained from the Board within 60 days of the date when such registration requirement first becomes effective. Failure to timely register will result in an additional late fee.

(b) The registration fee for a firm is \$75.00.

(c) The late fee for a firm is \$250.00 in addition to the registration fee.

(d) The renewal fee for a firm is \$75.00

(2) A firm required to be registered with the Board must show that attest services and compilation and review services rendered in this state are under the supervision of a person holding a live permit issued by this state or a person with substantial equivalency practice privileges under subsection (b) of Code Section 43-3-24.

(3) Notice shall be given to the Board within thirty days of any change in address.

(4) Registration permits will expire on June 30, of each even numbered year and shall become renewable at least 60 days prior to the expiration date. It is the policy of the Board to mail notices of pending expiration dates to licensees at their last known addresses, but failure to receive such a notice does not relieve the licensee of this obligation to register.

(5) In order to qualify for renewal the firm must comply with the provisions of the Report Monitoring Program as provided for in O.C.G. A. 43-3-23.1.

(6) An application for renewal of a firm registration, otherwise in order, filed after the June 30th expiration date must be accompanied by a late fee of \$250 in addition to the renewal fee. After June 30th, without an active firm registration, it is unlawful to practice public accountancy in this State. The late renewal period begins July 1st and ends September 30th.

(7) An application for reinstatement of a firm registration, otherwise in order, filed after September 30th must be accompanied by a reinstatement fee of \$575.

(8) In no event will the Board register or renew the registration of a firm for the practice of public accountancy in this state unless the firm complies with the ownership requirements of Code Section 43-3-21.

(9) In no event will the Board register or renew the registration of a firm for the practice of public accountancy in this state unless the firm participates in a peer review program whose standards at a minimum comply with the “Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Review” promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) in a manner consistent with the timing and completion requirements of Code Section 43-3-23.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-7, 43-1-19, 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, 43-3-23, 43-3-29, 43-3-29.1, and 43-3-35

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
RULES**

RULE 20-8-.02, “Firms not Required to be Registered.”

PURPOSE: The purpose of this rule is to detail which Firms do not require Registration.

MAIN FEATURES: This is a new rule detailing which Firms do not require Registration.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
RULE 20-8-.02, “Firms not Required to be Registered.”**

NOTE: Underlined text is proposed to be added; lined through text is proposed to be deleted.

Rule 20-8-.02 Firms not Required to be Registered

(1) A firm that does not have an office in this state may perform compilation or review services to be performed in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review services (SSARS) for a client having its office in this state without registering with the Board if:

(a) Such firm complies with the ownership requirements of 43-3-21.

(b) Such firm participates in a peer review program whose standards at a minimum comply with the “Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Review” promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) in a manner consistent with the timing and completion requirements of Code Section 43-3-23.

(c) Such firm provides services through an individual with practice privileges under subsection (b) of Code Section 43-3-24 related to substantial equivalency practice privileges. Practice privileges under subsection (b) of Code Section 43-3-24 are not permitted for an individual unless that individual holds a valid license as a certified public accountant in a state which grants similar practice privileges to license holders in this state.

(3) A firm that does not have an office in this state and is not performing services described in 20-8-.01(1) and 20-8-.02(1) above may perform other professional services included in the practice of public accountancy while using the title ‘CPA’ or ‘CPA Firm’ in this state without registering with the Board if:

(a) Such firm provides services through an individual with practice privileges under subsection (b) of Code Section 43-3-24 related to substantial equivalency practice privileges. Practice privileges under subsection (b) of Code Section 43-3-24 are not permitted for an individual unless that individual holds a valid license as a certified public accountant in a state which grants similar practice privileges to license holders in this state.

(b) That firm can lawfully perform such services in the state where said individuals with practice privileges have their principal place of business.

Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. §§ 43-3-2, 43-3-5, 43-3-21, and 43-3-35